7th Grade English

Oral Recitation Assignment

*To Kill A Mockingbird*

**Introduction:**

*Reading* a novel is one way to understand a story. The reader can learn about a setting, a group of characters, the problems between characters, and understand how a setting can affect the characters in the story. When you read, you understand what is happening.

*Memorizing* part of that novel rises to a different, more advanced level of understanding. First, one must read that part of the story many times to be able to memorize it. That process rereading truly helps one understand that portion of the novel. But memorizing and then reciting is an even greater task: to speak the words out loud forces a reader to truly empathize the character. To a character’s passage well, one must enter into the character’s mind to appreciate his or her motivations, feelings, and actions.

**Assignment:**

**Memorize one paragraph of Atticus’s closing speech on pages 270-275.**

**Specific Areas of Focus:**

* **Memorization**
* **Movement and eye contact**—you should embody Atticus speaking to the jury (pretend you are standing in his shoes when presenting)
* **Facial expressions and hand gestures:** Appropriate levels of each
* **Tone and pacing**: Does the recitation express the meaning of the passage?

**Assignments and Due Dates:**

* **Selection of Paragraph:** Wednesday, April 8th
* **Understanding of Paragraph (on the back of sheet):** Thursday, April 9th
* **Practice time with feedback from peer:** Monday, April 13th
* **Recitations:** Tuesday, April 14th through Thursday, April 16th
* **Self-Evaluations**: Due the day after your recitation; you will receive these later, most likely on Monday (if not sooner).

Name: Date:

1. Write out the paragraph(s) you are going to memorize.
2. What is Atticus saying in this passage? In other words, summarize the major points or arguments he is making in this part of his speech.
3. Why is Atticus making this point? Who is that point directed towards?

IV. Why are you choosing this passage?